

3-2nd ADA "Lethal Strike" deployed to Turkey

By: Staff Sgt. Nathan Akridge



With past and current events around the world, many units have had to answer the nation's call to defend our country. In early January 2013, Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment "Lethal Strike" deployed to Turkey to defend one of our NATO allies from possible air and missile threats as a result of the ongoing civil war in Syria. Lethal Strike soldiers had very little time to react to the deployment order because the unit received notification approximately two weeks before they had to deploy. "This deployment is definitely different than my last one," said Sgt. Leonardo Nino, a soldier in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3-2 ADA. "This time, we deployed in a lot less time than we're used to, so it was a little more hectic. We did a pretty good job despite the time crunch."

Although deploying in a short time presented its own set of challenges, the soldiers overcame that obstacle, said Nino. When asked about the deployment Pfc. Peter Ferrer, a soldier in Bravo Battery, 3-2 ADA, said despite this being his first deployment, he feels confident about his mission. "I feel great. I know I'll be away from my family, but I feel proud that I have a chance to defend my nation. This is a new experience for me and it gives me a chance to serve my country," said Ferrer.

Ferrer added that his chain of command was instrumental in preparing him for his deployment. "They did everything they could for me. They gave me time to prepare my family, they helped me with all the issues that I had, and they gave me support." When asked about the mission, Capt. Russell Newman, 3-2 HHB said "Hopefully nobody notices anything different going on, and this is just a normal routine mission, and all the threats out there will be handled before they become an issue." Newman was excited about the unknowns and very enthusiastic about deploying with his battalion and their capabilities.

"They're rock steady. They're fully prepared to do their job. I'd go with them anywhere."